

attend George Washington University, where he received his master's degree in public administration. Following graduation, he was assigned as chief of the Material Management Branch of the Office of the Comptroller at Coast Guard Headquarters.

In 1964, Admiral Stewart returned to the Gulf Coast as executive officer of the cutter *Sebago* based out of Pensacola, Florida. He was then assigned as chief of Personnel Division K of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. In 1967, he was named commanding officer of the cutter, *Androscoggin*, a cutter he took to Vietnam in December of 1967 to participate in Operation Market Time. The *Androscoggin* remained on station in Southeast Asia until August 1968.

Following this tour of duty, then-Commander Stewart returned to Washington, D.C. and served as special assistant to the commandant of the Coast Guard before serving as administrative aide to the commandant. Then-Captain Stewart was transferred back to Honolulu to the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, where he served as chief of the operations division and then chief of staff. He once again returned to Washington, D.C. in 1976 as deputy chief of staff at Coast Guard Headquarters. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the rank of rear admiral and was named chief of the office of personnel, a position he held until 1981, when he was assigned commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, Admiral Stewart worked tirelessly to prevent illegal drug smuggling. In 1983, he testified before the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. During this time, he also served as an advisor to then-Vice President George H.W. Bush before his retirement on June 28, 1985.

Admiral Stewart earned an impressive list of medals and awards over the course of his distinguished career, including: the Coast Guard Achievement Medal; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Bronze Star Medal (with Combat "V") and the Gold Star; the Meritorious Service Medal (with two Gold Stars); the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star; and the Legion of Merit.

Admiral Stewart's retirement certainly was not the end of his service to his community, state or nation. Following his retirement from the Coast Guard, he served as a Kiwanian, a founding member of the board of trustees of the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico, a member of the board of governors of the Bienville Club, a past president and member of the Mobile Council for the Navy League of the United States, a member of the board of directors of the Veterans Day Commission, a past chairman and member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, a past division chairman of the United Way, a past chairman of the Disaster Service Committee of the local Red Cross Chapter, and a member of the board of directors of the Alabama Military Hall of Honor at Marion Military Institute.

As a homeowner on Alabama's Dauphin Island since the 1950s, the island was of great importance to him. Admiral Stewart served as a member of the board of directors of the Property Owners Association for eight years and president for five years. He was a mem-

ber of a Task Force which brought together Islanders and the Auburn University Economic Development Institute in the late 1980s. He was also founding director as well as second and current chairman of the Dauphin Island Foundation.

Admiral Stewart was married to Laura Hamilton Stewart for more than 40 years before her untimely death from cancer. Together they raised two children, Edward Wilson, who preceded his father in death, and Karla Stewart Bohn.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Admiral William H. Stewart loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Paulette Gerhardt Stewart; his daughter and step-daughters; his grandchildren; his extended family; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with disappointment in the lack of pro-energy and pro-consumer provisions contained in the Democrat energy bill being considered on the House floor today. I strongly oppose passage of the House Amendment to H.R. 6 and urge my colleagues to join me in defeating this bill. We should work in a bipartisan manner to pass real solutions for America's growing energy needs.

The American economy has ups and downs. But overall it continues to grow, producing jobs for American workers. To keep pace with our economy, more reliable and sustainable sources of energy are needed. Conservation, innovative and efficient energy technologies, renewable forms of energy and of course traditional sources of energy all must play a role in our energy future.

I am pleased the bill included an increase in fuel efficiency standards from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. As a cosponsor of H.R. 2927 that would increase the corporate average fuel economy, CAFE, standards for automobiles, I believe we must not waste any more time in making our vehicles more fuel efficient. I support increasing the CAFE standards and hope we can work together with the private sector to achieve this worthy goal.

Unfortunately, the Democrat's closed-door energy bill containing more than 1,000 pages is not the kind of solution the American people deserve. Rather than work together to pass a more complete and comprehensive plan to address our energy needs, Democrat leadership has chosen to forego their pledge to work with Republicans on important policy matters. The result is an energy bill that will lead to higher

electric utility bills, drive up gasoline prices at the pump, discriminately raise taxes on manufacturers of domestic energy and depress exploration efforts to find additional sources of domestic energy.

The bill fails to include proven, reliable energy production methods such as nuclear energy for lowering emissions into our atmosphere. Instead, the House Amendment to H.R. 6 mandates a one-size-fits-all Renewable Portfolio Standard for some electric utility companies while exempting other electric utilities. I support utility companies investing in and offering renewable energy to customers, and I support incentives for increased production of renewable energy. Many Kansas farmers and landowners are already participants in wind and bio fuel production, and Kansas has potential to do even more.

But Congress must exercise great caution when attempting to mandate levels of renewable fuels that must be used by electric power companies. Many of our Nation's electric companies are presently investing billions of dollars in renewable energy projects—not because they are mandated by the Federal Government, but because market forces have led them to do so. By mandating higher levels of renewable energy for power generation than the market naturally supports, ratepayers are going to be stuck with higher electric bills.

I cannot think of a single constituent who has asked me to support higher electric bills. This Democrat bill is not an energy solution that is good for Kansas, and it is not a good solution for America.

Great harm will particularly fall upon America's poor and middle class customers as a result of increased electric rates. Senior citizens who are living on fixed incomes and families on tight budgets should not be forced to suffer because of ill-thought Federal mandates on select electric utilities and their customers.

Another section of the House Amendment to H.R. 6 mandates a Federal Renewable Energy Standard that will require unrealistic quantities of biofuel. For example, the Democrat energy bill mandates that 100 million gallons of cellulosic biofuel be included in our fuel supply by 2010. However, commercially viable production of cellulosic fuel is only projected to be 27 million gallons by 2010. As a strong supporter of cellulosic biofuel, I hope American ingenuity will help us surpass current projections. The Federal Government should encourage private-sector innovation that has long been a hallmark of America's history.

But the Federal Government should not be mandating on the private sector requirements that are not commercially tested and far exceed industry projections. Reckless mandates will result in increased fuel costs for consumers.

I am also disappointed that the House Amendment to H.R. 6 contains more than \$21 billion in tax increases that will negatively impact American jobs. By raising taxes on the oil and gas industry, we are driving up manufacturing costs making domestic companies less competitive. Raising taxes on oil and gas companies will not reduce prices at the pump, and it certainly will not help ease our dependence on foreign oil. If anything, it will make

us more dependent on foreign oil and will cause energy prices to increase.

Raising taxes on the energy sector will inevitably be passed to consumers at the pump. If the Democrat energy tax increase is passed, motorists will consider today's \$3 gasoline to be a cheap deal. Families and small businesses in Kansas do not want higher fuel costs, which is why I refuse to accept a plan that raises the price of gasoline.

By raising billions of dollars through tax increases imposed on the oil and gas manufacturing industry, but not raising taxes on other manufacturing sectors, Congress picks winners and losers and American manufacturing jobs suffer.

Instead of encouraging more domestic energy exploration, production and investment, the Democrat energy bill instead makes these activities more expensive for American companies trying to supply America with energy.

This bill is woefully inadequate when it comes to American energy independence. It harms consumers by raising energy costs. And it wreaks havoc on American manufacturing jobs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this proposal.

AMT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the AMT Relief Act of 2007, which will provide middle class tax relief to over 23 million hard-working families who would otherwise be hit by the Alternative Minimum Tax next year.

For six years, the White House and the Republican congressional leadership failed to dismantle the Alternative Minimum Tax. As a result of their inaction, a huge middle class tax increase is now hanging over the heads of millions of unsuspecting Americans. This Republican tax tsunami will come crashing down on middle America next year if we fail to take action today.

On the Republicans' watch, the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans got over half the benefit of the Bush tax cuts—while the Nation's debt soared past \$9 trillion. Make no mistake: There are consequences to this kind of borrow and spend mentality. Every year, each taxpayer must pay a \$3,300 "debt tax" just to cover the cost of financing the debt. This legislation takes a different approach. Rather than digging ourselves deeper into debt, this bill pays for our actions today by closing a loophole in current law that permits a minuscule number of hedge fund managers to defer billions of dollars in compensation in offshore accounts.

To those who say Congress should not pay its bills, this legislation says "there is another choice." We can provide fiscally responsible tax relief without running up the national debt. We can take responsibility for our expenses today, without placing the burden of our choices on future generations.

I urge my colleagues to make the right choice. Let's pass fiscally responsible AMT re-

lief and give our citizens the government they deserve.

DR. AULAKH, PRESIDENT OF
COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, HAS
SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO EUROPE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, made a very successful trip to Great Britain and Belgium. Belgium is the European headquarters of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's shadowy "intelligence service."

Dr. Aulakh spoke at three Gurdwaras and the crowds responded enthusiastically. They chanted pro-Khalistan slogans and they overwhelmingly supported the message of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. This was a blow to the Indian occupation and oppression in Punjab, Khalistan.

Their support should be rewarded, Madam Speaker. We should go on record supporting a free and fair vote on the matter. And we should stop our aid to India until such time as they recognize basic human rights.

Madam Speaker, I would like to add the Council of Khalistan's recent release on Dr. Aulakh's European visit to the RECORD at this time.

DR. AULAKH'S VISIT TO EUROPE VERY SUCCESSFUL

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 6.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has recently returned from a very successful trip to Europe. He traveled to Gurdwaras in Belgium and Great Britain. He spoke at the Gurdwaras in Sint-Truiden in Belgium and in Slough and Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Belgium is the European headquarters of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

At every stop, slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" filled the air. Enthusiastic crowds greeted Dr. Aulakh's message of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987.

"I would like to thank my hosts in Europe for helping to make the trip so successful," Dr. Aulakh said. The show of support for liberating the Sikh Nation, Khalistan, from Indian occupation shows that the flame of freedom burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation despite India's many years of oppression."

India has refused to allow so much as a vote on the matter of independence for Khalistan. It has refused to grant the people of Kashmir the plebiscite on their status that they were promised in 1948. It continues to kill and harass Sikhs and other minorities.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested,

tortured, and murdered, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for Jathedar Kaunke's murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

"The desire to reclaim the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh declared for us still resides in every Sikh heart," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Khalistan must and will be free soon."

CONGRATULATING DR. HAROLD
DODGE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT AS SUPER-
INTENDENT OF THE MOBILE
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYS-
TEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. Harold Dodge, on the occasion of his retirement as superintendent of the Mobile County Public School System.

With a career spanning over four decades, Dr. Dodge has dedicated his life to education, serving as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Beginning his career as a teacher and a coach at Deep Creek High School in Chesapeake, Virginia, he went on to serve as principal at Oscar Smith High School, Indian River Junior High School, and E.W. Chittum Elementary School in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Prior to coming to Mobile, Dr. Dodge served as superintendent of Cumberland County Schools in Cumberland, Virginia; Montgomery County Schools in Christianburg, Virginia; and University City School District in University City, Missouri.

In August of 1998, Dr. Dodge took the reigns of the Mobile County Public School System, the State's largest school system with over 65,000 students and 8,000 employees. Under his leadership, the school system has implemented a nationally recognized strategic